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8 Ignite International, Ltd.

9

10 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
11 **DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

12 IGNITE SPIRITS, INC., a Wyoming
13 corporation,

14 Plaintiff,

15 v.

16 CONSULTING BY AR, LLC, a Florida limited
17 liability company; DOES I through X, inclusive;
18 and ROE Business Entities I through X,
19 inclusive,

20 Defendants.

21 CONSULTING BY AR, LLC,

22 Counterclaim Plaintiff,

23 v.

24 IGNITE SPIRITS, INC. (f/k/a Ignite Beverages,
25 Inc.); IGNITE INTERNATIONAL LTD.; AND
26 IGNITE INTERNATIONAL BRANDS, LTD.,

27 Counterclaim Defendants.

28 Case No: 2:21-CV-1590- JCM-EJY

29 **COUNTERCLAIM DEFENDANT
30 IGNITE INTERNATIONAL, LTD.'S
31 MOTION TO DISMISS
32 COUNTERCLAIM PURSUANT TO
33 FRCP 12(b)(1), FRCP 12(b)(2),
34 FRCP 12(b)(3), AND 12(b)(6); AND
35 MOTION FOR A MORE
36 DEFINITIVE STATEMENT ON
37 COUNTERCLAIM PURSUANT TO
38 FRCP 12(e)**

39 **ORAL ARGUMENT REQUESTED**

40 Counterclaim Defendant IGNITE INTERNATIONAL LTD. ("Counterclaim
41 Defendant" or "Ignite International"), by and through its attorneys of record, Ryan Ellis
42 Law Corporation, hereby files a motion asking this Court to dismiss all of the claims for
43 relief in the Counterclaim filed by Defendant/Counterclaim Plaintiff Consulting by AR,

1 LLC (“Counterclaim Plaintiff” or “Consulting by AR”) pursuant to FRCP 12(b)(1), FRCP
2 12(b)(2), FRCP 12(b)(3) and FRCP 12(b)(6), or in the alternative require a more definite
3 statement from Counterclaim Plaintiff regarding the Counterclaim, pursuant to FRCP 12(e)
4 in the event the claims are not dismissed (hereinafter, the “Motion”).

5 Counterclaim Defendant Ignite International’s Motion herein is made and based
6 upon all papers, pleadings, and records on file herein, the attached Memoranda of Points
7 and Authorities, and any oral argument allowed at a hearing on this matter.

8 Dated this 23rd day of September, 2021

9 **RYAN ELLIS LAW CORPORATION**

10 */s/Ryan A. Ellis*
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16
17 Attorneys for *Counterclaim Defendant*
18 Ignite International, Ltd.
19 .

20 **MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES**

21 **I. RELEVANT FACTS/PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

22 This case is in its fairly early stages of litigation. On August 18, 2021, Ignite Spirits,
23 Inc. (“Spirits”) filed a complaint in state court in Nevada against Counterclaim Plaintiff
24 regarding a Letter Agreement between Spirits and Counterclaim Plaintiff, NOT Ignite
25 International, Ltd. this moving Counterclaim Defendant. (ECF No. 1¹). Counterclaim
26 Plaintiff waived service of process on August 23, 2021. (ECF No. 1). Thereafter,
27 Counterclaim Plaintiff removed this case to federal court on August 27, 2021. (ECF No. 1).
28 As admitted by Counterclaim Plaintiff in its Statement Regarding Removal (ECF No. 14
at 2:11-12), the only named counterclaim defendant served at the time of removal was

29
30 _____
31 ¹ As this case has several documents under seal the docket is not clear as to certain entries).

1 Spirits. Further, Counterclaim Plaintiff admits that “[t]his case arises out of a dispute
 2 centered on a Letter Agreement dated March 11, 2021, and the parties’ conduct after
 3 signing the Letter Agreement.” *See Amended Motion for Leave to File Portions of the*
 4 *Notice of Removal and Exhibit 6 to that Notice Under Seal at 2:5-6 (ECF No. 15).*

5 On September 2, 2021, Counterclaim Defendant Ignite International was served
 6 with a copy of the sealed Answer, Affirmative Defenses, and Counterclaims
 7 (“Counterclaim”) through its resident agent.² Upon reviewing the Counterclaim, it is
 8 unclear how this Counterclaim Defendant Ignite International is a proper party, but also
 9 how Counterclaim Plaintiff’s claims are a “counterclaim” and not a third-party complaint.
 10 If this was properly brought as a third-party complaint under FRCP 14, then the
 11 Counterclaim Defendant Ignite International could request the matter be severed at that
 12 time, and raise further arguments for dismissal, but instead the moving party is left with
 13 the “Counterclaim” as pled.

14 Moreover and after reviewing the deficient Counterclaim, and in 78 paragraphs,
 15 (sans paragraph 3), Ignite International is not mentioned at all. In the introductory
 16 paragraph, Counterclaim Plaintiff tries to define Ignite International along with the other
 17 counterclaim defendants as one party, but then even states that only one of the five counts
 18 - count 5 - is allegedly against this moving Counterclaim Defendant Ignite International.
 19 The problem is that upon reviewing count 5 (paragraphs 75-78) there is no mention of
 20 Ignite International, and that claim clearly relates as an alternative claim to the Letter
 21 Agreement. Again, Ignite International is not a party to such agreement. There are no
 22 allegations of conspiracy, piercing the corporate veil or even how Ignite International in
 23 any way relates to the events or omissions as alleged underlying this action.

24 Furthermore, the combined Counterclaim is silent as to jurisdiction against Ignite
 25 International, and only states jurisdiction based upon the Letter Agreement against Spirits
 26

27 ² There is no ECF reference, as it does not appear a proof of service has been filed at this
 28 time.

1 and Ignite International Brands, Ltd. (“Brands”)³. The combined counterclaim is also
 2 silent as to venue, and only states that events or omissions arose in this District. But again,
 3 it is not clear as to which arose against Ignite International.

4 Thus, as is shown, and at a minimum, this Court must order a more definitive
 5 statement if Counterclaim Plaintiff plans to continue to move forward in this Court with its
 6 procedurally defective, shotgun-approach, improperly combined “Counterclaim.”
 7 However, if this Court accepts the combined Counterclaim on its face, it must dismiss this
 8 combined Counterclaim for (1) lack of subject matter jurisdiction as it is not a compulsory
 9 counterclaim, (2) lack of personal jurisdiction as this Counterclaim Defendant Ignite
 10 International did not avail itself to this jurisdiction and/or no events or omissions have been
 11 pled against this Counterclaim Defendant Ignite International which rise to the level of
 12 such personal jurisdiction, (3) improper venue as this Counterclaim Defendant Ignite
 13 International is not a party to the Letter Agreement and did not avail itself to this venue,
 14 and (4) for failure to state a claim on which relief could be granted due to failure to allege
 15 facts sufficient for such causes of actions alleged against this Counterclaim Defendant
 16 Ignite International.

17 II. LEGAL ARGUMENT IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO DISMISS

18 A. **THE MOTION TO DISMISS BASED ON FRCP 12(b)(1), FRCP 19 12(b)(2), FRCP 12(b)(3) MUST BE GRANTED DUE TO LACK OF 20 SUBJECT MATTER AND PERSONAL JURISDICTION AND FOR 21 FAILURE TO ESTABLISH VENUE IS PROPER IN THIS 22 DISTRICT.**

23 1. Subject Matter Jurisdiction

24 FRCP 13(a)(1) requires that:

25 In General. A pleading must state as a counterclaim any claim that—at the time of
 26 its service—the pleader has against an opposing party if the claim:

- 27 (A) arises out of the transaction or occurrence that is the subject
 28 matter of the opposing party’s claim; and
- 29 (B) does not require adding another party over whom the court
 30 cannot acquire jurisdiction.

31 ³ And Brands is not a party to the Letter Agreement either. Only Spirits is a party to he
 32 Letter Agreement.

Pursuant to FRCP 13(b), a permissive counterclaim requires its own jurisdictional basis. *Unique Concepts, Inc. v. Manuel*, 930 F.2d 573 (7th Cir. 1991); see also *Iglesias v. Mutual Life Ins. Co. of N.Y.*, 156 F.3d 237, 241 (1st Cir. 1998) (“Only compulsory counterclaims can rely upon supplemental jurisdiction; permissive counterclaims require their own jurisdictional basis.”)

Additionally, 28 U.S.C. §1367(b) states that:

In any civil action of which the district courts have original jurisdiction founded solely on section 1332 of this title, the district courts shall not have supplemental jurisdiction under subsection (a) over claims by plaintiffs against persons made parties under Rule 14, 19, 20, or 24 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, or over claims by persons proposed to be joined as plaintiffs under Rule 19 of such rules, or seeking to intervene as plaintiffs under Rule 24 of such rules, when exercising supplemental jurisdiction over such claims would be inconsistent with the jurisdictional requirements of section 1332.

As pled in the Counterclaim, Counterclaim Plaintiff relies on 28 U.S.C. § 1332, 28 U.S.C. §1367, and 28 U.S.C. § 1391 as its bases for jurisdiction for its counterclaims. (See Counterclaim at ECF No. 1-¶10-12). While not addressing the issue in the combined Counterclaim, the combining was required to even attempt to plead a cause of action pursuant to FRCP 14 and FRCP 20. But more importantly, the unjust enrichment claim, which is pled in the alternative - the sole basis of the Counterclaim against this Counterclaim Defendant Ignite International - deals with a Letter Agreement to which this Counterclaim Defendant is not a party or even mentioned within its four corners.

2. Personal Jurisdiction

To adjudicate a particular suit, a court must have subject matter jurisdiction over the issues to be litigated, *Union Pac. R.R. Co. v. Bhd. of Locomotive Eng’rs*, 130 S. Ct. 584, 596 (2009), as well as personal jurisdiction over the parties, *Int’l Shoe Co. v. Washington*, 326 U.S. 310, 316 (1945). “The burden of proof is on the plaintiff to show that jurisdiction is appropriate, but in the absence of an evidentiary hearing, the plaintiff need only make a prima facie showing of jurisdictional facts.” *Sher v. Johnson*, 911 F.2d 1357, 1361 (9th Cir. 1990). At this stage, the Court need only consider the pleadings, the motion, and related documents, treating the plaintiff’s allegations as true. *Id.*

1 For compulsory counterclaims, the plaintiff generally consents to jurisdiction by
 2 filing an action in that court. For permissive counterclaims, the plaintiff's filing of suit
 3 may or may not constitute consent to jurisdiction depending on the particulars of the case.
 4 *See Grupke v. Linda Lori Sportswear, Inc.*, 174 F.R.D. 15, 17-18 (E.D.N.Y. 1997).

5 General jurisdiction arises where the defendant has continuous and systematic ties
 6 with the forum, even if those ties are unrelated to the litigation. *Hubbell Lighting*, 232 F.3d
 7 at 1375 (citing *Helicopteros Nacionales de Columbia, S.A. v. Hall*, 466 U.S. 408 414–16
 8 (1984)). Specific jurisdiction arises where the claims alleged “arise out of” or “relate to”
 9 contacts within the forum state. *Hubbell Lighting*, 232 F.3d at 1375. To exercise specific
 10 jurisdiction, there are three requirements: (1) the nonresident defendant must have
 11 “purposefully directed” his activities in the forum or have “purposefully availed” himself
 12 in the forum; (2) the claim “arises out of” or “relates to” the defendant’s activities in the
 13 forum; and (3) exercising jurisdiction is reasonable, in that it comports with the notions of
 14 fair play and substantial justice. *Caruth v. Int'l Psychoanalytical Ass'n*, 59 F.3d 126, 127
 15 (9th Cir. 1995) (*quoting Core-Vent Corp. v. Nobel Indus. AB*, 11 F.3d 1482, 1485 (9th Cir.
 16 1993)). To satisfy the second requirement for specific jurisdiction, the Ninth Circuit relies
 17 on a “but for” test to determine whether a claim “arises out of” forum-related activities.
 18 *Ballard v. Savage*, 65 F.3d 1495, 1500 (9th Cir. 1995); *Rio Prop.*, 284 F.3d at 1021. Where
 19 the contacts with the forum state “are integral and essential parts” of the claim, this
 20 requirement is met. *Dole Food Co., Inc. v. Watts*, 303 F.3d 1104, 1114 (9th Cir. 2002).
 21 Accordingly, the Court asks simply: but for Defendants’ contacts with Nevada, would
 22 Plaintiff’s claims have arisen? *Ballard*, 65 F.3d at 1500.

23 Again, Counterclaim Plaintiff’s theories of liability against this moving
 24 Counterclaim Defendant Ignite International are not compulsory. Further, Ignite
 25 International did not file the original action (i.e. was not a plaintiff) that was removed by
 26 Counterclaim Plaintiff. Ignite International never consented to jurisdiction in this matter
 27 in Nevada. This is no secret, Counterclaim Plaintiff itself pleads in its “Counterclaim” that
 28 Ignite International is a resident of Wyoming and California. *See Counterclaim at ¶3*. In

1 order to oppose a motion to dismiss for lack of personal jurisdiction, Counterclaim Plaintiff
 2 must make a *prima facie* showing of personal jurisdiction over Ignite International. See
 3 *Visual Sciences, Inc. v. Integrated Comm'sns, Inc.* 660 F.2d 56, 58 (2d Cir. 1981). Here,
 4 Counterclaim Plaintiff simply cannot do that, as Ignite International is not even a proper
 5 party.

6 **3. Venue**

7 Venue is usually assumed to be appropriate because the plaintiff has chosen to
 8 litigate in that court. In some cases, the court may require the defendant to show that venue
 9 is appropriate for each counterclaim. For example, if a contractual forum selection clause
 10 in the parties' agreement applies to the counterclaim but not to the plaintiff's original claim,
 11 some courts will grant a plaintiff's motion to dismiss the counterclaim for improper venue
 12 under FRCP 12(b)(3). *See Publicis Commc'n v. True N. Commc'n Inc.*, 132 F.3d 363,
 13 365-66 (7th Cir. 1997)). Here, Ignite International was not a party to the Letter Agreement,
 14 and thus did not choose to litigate in this venue.

15 **B. THE LEGAL STANDARD FOR FRCP 12(b)(6) REQUIRES
 16 GRANTING OF THIS MOTION TO DISMISS.**

17 Applying the standard delineated in *Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544,
 18 555 (2007), the Court should dismiss Counterclaim Plaintiff's claims against this
 19 Counterclaim Defendant. Counterclaim Plaintiff's Counterclaim fails to allege any, let
 20 alone sufficient, facts to support its threadbare allegation that this Counterclaim Defendant
 21 is liable under an alternative theory of breach of contract for a contract under which this
 22 Counterclaim Defendant is not a party. Counterclaim Plaintiff did not even plead an alter
 23 ego theory, or one for indemnification or even to show the relationship between this
 24 Counterclaim Defendant and the other counterclaim defendants. Thus, the Court should
 25 dismiss Counterclaim Plaintiff's Counterclaim against this moving Counterclaim
 26 Defendant for failure to allege any claims upon which relief could be granted.

27 **1. Standard of Law**

28 Rule 12(b)(6) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure permits a defendant to seek

1 dismissal of a claim if it fails to “state a claim upon which relief can be granted.” Fed. R.
 2 Civ. P. 12(b)(6). A cause of action can fail to state a “claim upon which relief can be
 3 granter” if, *inter alia*, it fails to comply with the requirements of Rule 8(a)(2) of the Federal
 4 Rules of Civil Procedure. Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(a)(2) requires “a short and plain statement of
 5 the claim showing the pleader is entitled to relief.”

6 In considering a motion to dismiss, the court must accept the allegations in the
 7 complaint as true and draw all reasonable inferences in favor of the plaintiff. *Scheuer v.*
 8 *Rhodes*, 416 U.S. 232, 236, 94 S.Ct. 1683, 40 L.Ed.2d 90 (1974), overruled on other grounds
 9 by *Davis v. Scherer*, 468 U.S. 183, 104 S.Ct. 3012, 82 L.Ed.2d 139 (1984); *Cruz v. Beto*, 405
 10 U.S. 319, 322, 92 S.Ct. 1079, 31 L.Ed.2d 263 (1972).

11 Assertions that are mere “legal conclusions” are not entitled to the assumption of
 12 truth. *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 678, 129 S.Ct. 1937, 173 L.Ed.2d 868 (2009) (*citing*
 13 *Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544, 555, 127 S.Ct. 1955, 167 L.Ed.2d 929 (2007)).

14 To survive a motion to dismiss, a plaintiff needs to plead “enough facts to state a
 15 claim to relief that is plausible on its face.” *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 570. Dismissal is
 16 appropriate where the plaintiff fails to state a claim supportable by a cognizable legal theory.
 17 *Balistreri v. Pacifica Police Department*, 901 F.2d 696, 699 (9th Cir.1990). “Dismissal with
 18 prejudice and without leave to amend is not appropriate unless it is clear ... that the complaint
 19 could not be saved by amendment.” *Eminence Capital, L.L.C. v. Aspeon, Inc.*, 316 F.3d
 20 1048, 1052 (9th Cir.2003).

21 “Rule 8(a)(2) still requires a showing rather than a blanket assertion, of entitlement
 22 to relief. With some factual allegation in the complaint, it is hard to see how a claimant could
 23 satisfy the requirement of providing not only fair notice of the nature of the claim, but also
 24 grounds on which the claims rests.” *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 570. When a complaint contains
 25 inadequate factual allegations, “this basic deficiency should . . . be exposed at the point of
 26

1 minimum expenditure of time and money by the parties and the court.” *Id.* at 571. From
 2 *Twombly*, it is clear that Rule 8(a)(2)’s basic requirement for “a short and plain” statement
 3 does not eliminate the need for a certain minimum amount of specificity in a pleading.
 4 Rather, “a district court must retain the power to insist upon some specificity in pleading
 5 before allowing a potential massive factual controversy to proceed.” *Id.* at 572 (quoting
 6 *Associated Gen. Contractors of Cal., Inc. v. Carpenters*, 459 U.S. 519, 528 n. 17 (1983)).
 7

8 **2. Counterclaim Plaintiff Fails to Even Plead Bald Allegations of
 9 Individual Liability Against This Counterclaim Defendant Ignite
 International to Satisfy Twombly’s Standard**

10 As foreshadowed above, Counterclaim Plaintiff’s death knell is that it failed to
 11 plead an alter ego theory, or one for indemnification, or even attempt to allege any
 12 relationship between this Counterclaim Defendant Ignite International and the other
 13 counterclaim defendants. Additionally, Counterclaim Plaintiff has wholly failed to allege
 14 facts that support any attempt to pierce the corporate veil. In order to successfully state an
 15 alter ego claim, the plaintiff must state specific facts that show that defendants have acted
 16 as the alter ego of an entity. In 1957, the Nevada Supreme Court in *Frank McCleary Cattle*
 17 *Co. v. Sewell*, 73 Nev. 279, 282 (1957) established the “alter ego” analysis for corporations,
 18 which was later codified by statute under NRS 78.747(2). A stockholder, director or officer
 19 acts as the alter ego of a corporation if: (a) the corporation is influenced and governed by
 20 the stockholder, director or officer; (b) there is such unity of interest and ownership that
 21 the corporation and the stockholder, director or officer are inseparable from each other; and
 22 (c) adherence to the corporate fiction of a separate entity would sanction fraud or promote
 23 a manifest injustice. The question of whether a stockholder, director or officer acts as the
 24 alter ego of a corporation must be determined by the court as a matter of law. NRS
 25 78.747(3).

26 Many of the Nevada Supreme Court’s decisions that followed *McCleary Cattle Co.*
 27 adhere to the third factor with particular importance to avoid fraud or manifest injustice.
 28

1 The Court has repeatedly emphasized that the “corporate cloak is not lightly thrown aside.”
2 However, the court will disregard that “cloak” if “adherence to the fiction of a separate
3 entity . . . [would] sanction a fraud or promote injustice.” *Baer v. Walker*, 85 Nev. 219,
4 (1969); *North Arlington Medical Bldg., Inc. v. Sanchez*, 86 Nev. 515 (1970). As pointed
5 out in *In re James Giampietro*, 317, B.R. 841, 853 (Bankr. D. Nev. 2004), Bankruptcy
6 Judge Bruce A. Markell, while conducting an extensive review of Nevada’s case law in
7 this area, and relying in part upon a decision from 20 years prior by U.S. District Court
8 Judge Lloyd D. George (then serving as a bankruptcy judge), observed that the prevention
9 of fraud or manifest injustice is the most meaningful of the NRS 78.747 factors. It is not
10 enough simply that some of the factors favoring alter ego liability exist. More importantly,
11 based on the Court’s prior holdings in this area, there must be a causal connection between
12 those factors and the plaintiff’s injury. Quoting Judge George’s earlier analysis in *In re*
13 *Twin Lakes Village, Inc.*, 2 B.R. 532, 542 (Bankr. D. Nev. 1980), Judge Markell noted “the
14 element of reliance, or more particularly, on ‘reasonable reliance’ by the complaining
15 creditor upon debtor conduct which would indicate either the absence of a corporate form
16 or the assumption of liability by a person or entity controlling an openly visible
17 corporation,” has been the primary focus of Nevada courts. *Id.*

18 The requirement of a causal connection between the alter ego factors and actual
19 harm to the plaintiff has been discussed in various Nevada Supreme Court cases. *North*
20 *Arlington Medical Bldg., Inc. v. Sanchez*, 86 Nev. 515 (1970) (Court held that plaintiff
21 failed to show any causal connection between the way a corporation was capitalized and
22 its subsequent inability to pay the obligation owed corporate president, even though the
23 president had completely influenced and managed the corporation, failed to follow
24 corporate formalities, and left the corporation undercapitalized); *Paul Steelman, Ltd. v.*
25 *Omni Realty Partners*, 110 Nev. 1223 (1994); *Lipshie v. Tracy Inv. Co.*, 93 Nev. 370, 377,
26 (1977) (finding no causal connection between a parent corporation undercapitalizing a
27 subsidiary corporation in order to attempt to frustrate payment of its obligation to a
28 creditor.)

1 The Nevada legislature later clarified and codified the application of the “alter ego”
 2 analysis to apply to a limited liability company. The result was a bright line protection of
 3 the LLC veil. Pursuant to NRS 86.381, a member of a Nevada LLC “is not a proper party
 4 to proceedings against the company.”

5 In the Counterclaim, the Counterclaim Plaintiff fails to allege anything beyond
 6 conclusory allegations that this Counterclaim Defendant Ignite International is somehow
 7 related to the other counterclaim defendants. The reason is there are no such facts. Thus,
 8 these allegations are insufficient and cannot survive a motion to dismiss for failure to state
 9 a claim.

10 **III. THIS MOTION FOR A MORE DEFINITE STATEMENT SHOULD**
 11 **BE GRANTED PURSUANT TO FRCP 12(e)**

12 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(e) provides “a party may move for a more
 13 definite statement of a pleading to which a responsive pleading is allowed but which is so
 14 vague or ambiguous that the party cannot reasonably prepare a response.” A more definite
 15 statement is needed when the pleadings are unclear as to who did what to whom and when.
 16 *See, e.g., McHenry v. Renne*, 84 F.3d 1172, 1178 (9th Cir. 1996). When notice pleading
 17 standards are not met, granting a motion for more definite statement is appropriate. *See,*
 18 *e.g., Swierkiewicz v. Sorema N.A.*, 534 U.S. 506, 514 (2002) (if a pleading fails to specify
 19 the allegations in a manner that provides sufficient notice, a defendant can move for a more
 20 definite statement under Rule 12(e) before responding). In this regard, both the court and
 21 the litigants are entitled to know, at the pleading stage, who is being sued, why, and for
 22 what. *See, e.g., McHenry v. Renne*, 84 F.3d 1172, 1178 (9th Cir. 1996).

23 The determination of a motion for a more definite statement is left to the sound
 24 discretion of the court. *See Abdul-Aziz v. JP Morgan & Chase Co.*, 2011 WL 1059205, at
 25 *2 (N.D. Tex. Mar. 2, 2011). Courts do grant FRCP 12(e) motions that attack the lack of
 26 detail in a pleading. *See, e.g., Exal Corp. v. Roeslein & Assocs., Inc.*, 2012 WL 4754748,
 27 at *4 (N.D. Ohio Oct. 2, 2012) (plaintiff’s claims regarding fraud lacked sufficient detail
 28 under the heightened pleading standards for fraud claims provided by FRCP 9(b)); *see,*

1 also, e.g., *Parker v. Federal Express Corp.*, 2010 WL 2510984, at *3 (E.D. Mich. June 17,
 2 2010) (in a breach of contract action, plaintiff's counsel used only general terms to allege
 3 that the defendant's employee manuals created an expectation of job security). Courts also
 4 grant motions for a more definite statement when the subject pleading is unintelligible. A
 5 pleading is unintelligible is when the responding party cannot actually determine the issues
 6 that must be addressed in a response. *See, e.g., Haghkerdar*, 226 F.R.D. at 14; *see, also,*
 7 *Hawkins v. Kiely*, 250 F.R.D. 73, 74 (D. Me. 2008).

8 The incorporation of every fact and party in the case can impair the opposing
 9 party's ability to properly respond to the pleading's allegations, and may improperly shift
 10 to the court the responsibility of determining which facts are relevant to which causes of
 11 action and against which parties. *See, e.g., Griffin v. HSBC Mortgage Svcs., Inc.*, 2015 WL
 12 4041657, at *5 (N.D. Miss. July 1, 2015). For example, in *Bennett*, the court granted a
 13 motion for a more definite statement because the plaintiff alleged facts against unspecified
 14 defendants and incorporated all allegations into each cause of action alleged in the
 15 complaint, and the plaintiff had attempted to force the defendants and the court to
 16 determine which allegations were relevant to which claim against which defendant. *See*
 17 *Bennett*, 2015 WL 5294321, at *14.

18 Here, Counterclaim Plaintiff's "Counterclaim," fails to even reference this moving
 19 Counterclaim Defendant (except for paragraph 3). In the introductory paragraph,
 20 Counterclaim Plaintiff attempts to ham-handedly define Ignite International along with the
 21 other counterclaim defendants as one party, but then even states that only one of the five
 22 counts - count 5 - is purportedly against Ignite International. The problem is that there is
 23 no mention of Ignite International upon reviewing count 5 (paragraphs 75-78) . Instead,
 24 that same claim clearly exists as an alternative claim to that relating to the Letter
 25 Agreement, and again, Ignite International is not a party to that agreement.

26 To be able to respond to the combined Counterclaim, Ignite International must first
 27 be able to understand what is being alleged against it, why, and what for. Based upon the
 28 foregoing, and at a minimum, it is not possible for Ignite International to adequately

1 respond to this Counterclaim Plaintiff's claims without more definite allegations and
2 claims. While Ignite International does not believe that this is the most adequate and most
3 appropriate relief, at the very least he would be able to draft an intelligent response and be
4 able to defend itself at this stage in the litigation.

5 **IV. CONCLUSION**

6 For the foregoing reasons, this Counterclaim Defendant Ignite International
7 respectfully requests that this Court dismiss the combined Counterclaim, or, in the
8 alternative, at least order the Counterclaim Plaintiff to file a more definite statement for
9 any portions of the combined Counterclaim that remain viable after this Court's rulings on
10 these Motions.

11 Dated this 23rd day of September, 2021

12 Respectfully Submitted,

13 **RYAN ELLIS LAW CORPORATION**

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that on September 23, 2021, that I electronically filed the above and foregoing document entitled **COUNTERCLAIM DEFENDANT IGNITE INTERNATIONAL, LTD.'S MOTION TO DISMISS COUNTERCLAIM PURSUANT TO FRCP 12(b)(1), FRCP 12(b)(2), FRCP 12(b)(3) AND 12(b)(6); AND MOTION FOR A MORE DEFINITIVE STATEMENT ON COUNTERCLAIM PURSUANT TO FRCP 12(e)** using the CM/ECF system which will send a notice of electronic filing to all CM/ECF registrants.

/s/Ryan A. Ellis

An employee of Ryan Ellis Law Corporation